



Madison County Office for the Aging, Inc.

138 Dominic Bruno Boulevard, Canastota, NY 13032

Phone: 315-697-5700 Fax: 315-697-5777

Web Address: www.ofamadco.org e-mail: information@ofamadco.org

Newsletter - February 2012

Dear Friends,

Do you know of an elderly person who functions fine but at times needs a little assistance? Do you have friends or family members that can't drive anymore and needs a ride to the doctor? The OFA can help, we are a non-profit agency that provides programs and services to senior citizens throughout Madison County many of whom are frail and isolated.

Now, if this were a perfect world, money would not be an issue. Not to us, and not to the thousands of frail elderly that we help on a daily basis. If this were a perfect world, we wouldn't need to continually stress to you the importance of your support. But this isn't a perfect world, and we need your help. For just a few dollars, you can make a difference in the lives of over 14,000 senior citizens. If you would like to help, send your tax-deductible contribution to: Office for the Aging, 138 Dominic Bruno Blvd., Canastota, NY 13032.



Sincerely,

Theresa Davis

Executive Director

PS: Working together, we can make a difference in the lives of the frail, isolated elderly so they may remain independent in their own homes and communities for as long as possible.

Program Changes to EPIC

Beginning January 1, 2012, there will be additional changes to the EPIC Program benefit.

- EPIC will be free, having no fees or deductibles and will expand Part D premiums for members with incomes up to \$23,000 if single and \$29,000 if married.
- All seniors must first be enrolled in a Medicare Part D plan to obtain EPIC benefits and maintain coverage.
- EPIC members will be responsible for their Part D deductible (if they have one) and Part D co-payments until they reach Medicare coverage (donut hole).
- EPIC will provide supplemental coverage to lower out of pocket expenses for drugs that are first covered by Medicare Part D only when a member reaches the coverage gap. EPIC will also cover drugs in Medicare Part D excluded classes purchased during the coverage gap.
- EPIC will continue to help members apply for Medicare's Low Income Subsidy (LIS) and Medicare Savings Programs to help them save more on drugs.

OFA has staff available to help you understand Medicare and EPIC as well as private insurance plans. Call us at 697-5700 to set up an appointment with Connie Brown, HIICAP Counselor.

OFA helps with Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) Applications

HEAP provides eligible people with financial help to pay heating bills. If you have never received this assistance you can call us and check to see if you are eligible for a benefit. Checks will be sent to fuel dealers or utility companies. If you are over 60 and need assistance filling out the application or if you want more information call OFA at 697-5700.

Tax Relief Programs for Senior Citizens

Several programs and credits exist to assist older New Yorkers in keeping their tax liabilities within acceptable levels, especially when living on fixed incomes. Applications are available at your local assessment office and must be submitted on or before March 1, 2012.

- **Basic STAR** on your owner-occupied primary residence, includes mobile homes and rent to own property. Contact your local Assessor's office for information on income limit.
- **Enhanced STAR** on your owner-occupied primary residence, must be 65 or turning 65 anytime during 2012. Contact your local Assessor's office for information on income limit.
- **Senior Citizen Limited Income Exemption** on your owner-occupied primary residence. Must be 65 prior to March 1st. Contact your local Assessor's office for information on income limit.
- **Veterans Exemption** on your owner-occupied primary residence or spouse of owner; must have served during a time of war. Contact your local Assessor's office for information.
- **Disability Exemption** on your owner-occupied primary residence. Owner must have documented physical or mental impairment. Contact your local Assessor's office for information on income limit.



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138 Dominic Bruno Blvd
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or current resident

Alzheimer's Disease Information & Referral Service

Alzheimer's disease causes a slow progressive loss of the ability to remember, to think clearly and rationally and ultimately to take care of oneself. Many older individuals fail to remember things at times or become confused especially when over stressed, tired or ill. However, when these symptoms continue to occur regularly, or are worsening, it may be appropriate to consider having a specialist establish a diagnosis. For more information contact the OFA at 697-5700. All calls are confidential.

Legal Services for Senior Citizens

The Office for the Aging provides legal counseling for seniors, 60 years of age or older under a contract with the Legal Aid Society of Mid-New York, Inc. This service is for civil (non-criminal) cases. Cases include: landlord/tenant matters, Health Care Proxy, wills and living wills. If you have a legal problem, call the OFA 697-5700 and ask for the Advocate, Patty Edwards, she will determine if your situation qualifies.

